



May 24, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: In support of House Bill 1416 (Rep. Bell / Sen. Paxton)

Dear Governor Abbott,

The Commit Partnership and the 16 organizations undersigned write to express our **support of House Bill 1416 (88R; Rep. Bell / Sen. Paxton). We believe this bill will address Texas' low academic proficiency rates and implement best practices to accelerate students' learning.**

Since HB 4545's passage in the 87th Legislative Session, we've seen the importance of **Texas maintaining our commitments to comprehensive, research-backed strategies to accelerate student instruction.** Statewide results from the 2022 administration of STAAR show that after facing a historic decades' worth loss of academic gains, students were able to recover some but proficiency rates remain low: just 52% of students on or above grade level in Reading and only 40% in Math respectively.¹ If left unaddressed, these declines in student proficiency could result in 4.9% lower lifetime earnings accumulating in a 1.6% economic loss to Texas' GDP, or \$938.7 billion in present value.²

Historically, approximately only 5% of Texas students who are academically behind catch up within two years.³ High-impact tutoring outpaces other learning interventions and can mitigate this trend, standing to recover a year's worth of lost learning in just a single school year.⁴

HB 1416 builds on the learning acceleration principles introduced in HB 4545 (87R)—including those of high-impact tutoring—and makes several welcome adjustments to address lessons learned in implementation over the past two years. Specifically, HB 1416 stays the course with what we know works for improving student outcomes by maintaining data-driven tutoring components such as low student-teacher ratios of 4:1 and prioritization of key academic subjects.⁵ Simultaneously, HB 1416 proposes meaningful changes to strengthen system implementation by providing flexibility in required tutoring hours based on academic need; fostering increased parent engagement in getting students on grade level; lessening administrative burden; and ensuring better data collection to evaluate impact and support effective practices.

By continuing to invest in high-impact tutoring with evidenced-backed ratios while simultaneously providing

¹ 2022 STAAR Results Summary, July 2022, <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2022-staar-results-summary.pdf>.

² Hoover Institution, January 2023, "The Economic Cost Of The Pandemic: Texas," https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/research/docs/Texas_HESI_PaperSeries_template_Final.pdf.

³ 2021 STAAR Results Summary, July 2021, <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/covid/Overview-of-2021-STAAR-Results.pdf>; 2022 STAAR Results Summary, July 2022, <https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/2022-staar-results-summary.pdf>.

⁴ National Student Support Accelerator, April 2023, "HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING: JUST THE FACTS," <https://commitpartnership.org/uploads/images/High-Impact-Tutoring-Facts-1.pdf>

⁵ Ibid.



these additional adjustments, more Texas school systems can implement tutoring with fidelity and Texas students furthest behind can receive academic support. We respectfully encourage you to sign HB 1416 into law to not only continue to ensure Texas' students and economy recover from pandemic disruptions, but also allow all students the academic opportunities necessary for their future success.

Sincerely,

Kate Greer
Managing Director, Policy & State Coalition
The Commit Partnership

Additional Supporters:

